



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,244	07/23/2003	Nicholas V. Perricone	00961-P0213A	3183
24126	7590	03/10/2004	EXAMINER	
ST. ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS, LLC 986 BEDFORD STREET STAMFORD, CT 06905-5619			OH, SIMON J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1615

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/625,244	PERRICONE, NICHOLAS V.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Simon J. Oh	1615	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/17/2003</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                     |

Art Unit: 1615

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 17 November 2003 was filed after the filing date of 23 July 2003. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Runge *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,598 B1) and Woerwag *et al.* (German Patent Application Publication No. DE 41 10087 A1)

The Runge *et al.* patent teaches carotenoid formulations for use in foods, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals (See Abstract). The formulations may contain 0.01% to 40% by weight of various ingredients and combinations thereof, including vitamins such as tocotrienol, and allithamines, such as benfotiamine (See Column 2, Lines 41-61; and Column 3, Lines 3-4). The formulations may comprise other ancillary substances and additives, such as physiologically acceptable oils (See Column 3, Lines 8-18). Minor amounts of stabilizers may also be added,

Art Unit: 1615

such as  $\alpha$ -tocopherol and ascorbic acid (See Column 3, Lines 31-41). Emulsifiers or solubilizers such as lecithin may also be added from 0% to 200% by weight of the carotenoids included in the formulation. Cosmetic formulations according to the disclosed invention include topical preparations, such as creams, lotions, emulsions, and suspensions (See Column 4, Lines 33-38).

The Runge *et al.* patent does not explicitly teach methods of treating skin damage.

The Woerwag *et al.* document discloses benfotiamine formulations comprising a carrier and applied topically to the skin for the treatment of various disorders, such as rheumatic disorders, and shingles.

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the prior art references in order to obtain the instantly claimed invention. As both references disclose topical compositions containing benfotiamine and auxiliary ingredients, it is the position of the examiner that one of ordinary skill would find it obvious to combine the prior art references, and that the composition arising from the collective disclosure of the prior art would contain the benefits found in each reference. The composition disclosed in the Runge *et al.* patent reads upon the breadth of the instant claim language, and furthermore discloses the composition as being useful as a cosmetic. It is the position of the examiner that one of ordinary skill in the art would, in light of such a disclosure, attribute the cosmetic composition as being useful for treating or preventing skin aging, with a reasonable expectation of success. The Woerwag *et al.* document discloses that the benfotiamine compositions are useful for treating rheumatic disorders and shingles, conditions that are known in the art to cause damage to skin. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to use the compositions of the prior art to treat or prevent skin damage with a reasonable expectation of success.

Art Unit: 1615

Thus, the instantly claimed invention is *prima facie* obvious.

***Correspondence***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon J. Oh whose telephone number is (703) 305-3265. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on (703) 308-2927. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Simon J. Oh  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1615

sjoh

  
THURMAN K. PAGE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600